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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1998

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, You alone are the Sovereign of our beloved Nation. In You we place our trust. You are the Source of our blessings, the Author of our liberty, the Guide for our future. Thank You for this sacred Chamber in which the women and men of the Senate seek to know and do Your will. Fill it with Your holy presence and the minds of the Senators with Your wisdom. You have promised in Scripture to heal our land if we humble ourselves, confess our dependence on You, and earnestly seek a renewed relationship with You. We claim this promise in this troubled time in our history. Grant the Senators a special measure of profound inner peace so that they may be peacemakers during times of tension and conflict. We put You and Your righteousness first, above anything, with the assurance that You will give us exactly what we need in each hour.

Father, we thank You that the Senate is a family. As such, we join with Senator KENT CONRAD and his staff in grief over the untimely death of Chief of Staff Kent Hall. Be with Kent's wife, Michelle, and their children, Caiti and Austin, in this time of need. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is good to see you again, looking in good form. I welcome back all our Members and staff. I hope everyone had a peaceful and restful August recess.

Now we will begin the final stretch of the legislative session of the 105th Congress, as we work to complete action on appropriations bills and a number of other important pieces of legislation.

I think our goal should continue to be to keep our commitment to the budget agreement of last year, stick to the caps we agreed to, preserve the surplus, and see what we can do to return taxes to the people who have worked and earned those taxes.

We have a number of other issues, obviously, that are very important—agriculture issues, education, bankruptcy reform. So we have a lot of work to do—missile defense, the defense of our country. I am very concerned, as I have said in writing to the President and my communications to the Pentagon. I am very worried that we are seeing a deterioration of the morale and the readiness of our military. Of course, there are many foreign policy issues that we will need to address—and all of this in only about 5 weeks or so.

As a part of that, of course, this week we will take up the foreign operations

appropriations bill. We expect to be on that issue Tuesday and Wednesday. We would like to finish it up Wednesday night if at all possible. We will have to count on the Members to work with us in trying to get identification of amendments that will be offered.

I hope Senators will reduce the number of amendments that they are offering on these appropriations bills. In July, it seemed as if every appropriations bill had 100 amendments. It was difficult, on both sides of the aisle, to work through all those amendments. I hope we will have a limited number of amendments and can complete that work.

For today, we will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. Following that, we will turn to the consideration of any legislative or Executive Calendar items that can be cleared for action.

As a reminder to Members, there will be no rollcall votes today, but throughout the August recess I continued to hear from Senators, saying, "How about it, are we really going to work that first week in September?" The answer is absolutely yes. We are going to be working seriously Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will begin by having our first vote at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the military construction appropriations bill. We expect Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday night, perhaps Wednesday morning, to have a vote on the low level waste disposal issue. And we expect votes on amendments with regard

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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